AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell comprising:

an electrolyte electrode assembly including a pair of electrodes and an electrolyte interposed between said electrodes;

separators for sandwiching said electrolyte electrode assembly,

wherein the separator is in an upright position and a width of the separator is greater than a height of the separator,

wherein a reactant gas supply passage, a reactant gas discharge passage, a coolant supply passage, and a coolant discharge passage extend through said fuel cell in a stacking direction of said fuel cell;

a coolant flow field is formed along a surface of said separator and extends along a portion of said surface that corresponds to a power generation surface of said electrolyte electrode assembly, wherein said coolant flow field connects said coolant supply passage to said coolant discharge passage;

said coolant supply passage is provided at a middle position of one vertical end of said separator, and said coolant discharge passage is provided at a middle position of the other vertical end of said separator; and

an air-releasing passage connected to said coolant flow field for releasing air from said coolant flow field is formed at an upper position of the other vertical end of said separator such that at least part of said air-releasing passage is positioned above a top of said coolant flow field,

wherein said coolant flow field is in fluid communication with said coolant supply

passage, said coolant discharge passage and said air-releasing passage on a single surface of said separator,

wherein said separator includes first and second metal plates which are stacked together, and said coolant flow field is formed between said first and second metal plates,

wherein said coolant flow field is in contact with said first and second metal plates,

wherein said air-releasing passage is positioned above said coolant discharge passage at the other vertical end of the separator,

wherein the air-releasing passage is aligned with the coolant discharge passage on the same side of the separator as the coolant discharge passage is positioned.

2. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein at least the top of said coolant flow field is inclined upwardly toward said air-releasing passage.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said first metal plate has an oxygen-containing gas flow field in a serpentine pattern on a surface opposite to said coolant flow field, and said second metal plate has a fuel gas flow field in a serpentine pattern on a surface opposite to said coolant flow field.

6. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said reactant gas supply passage comprises an oxygen-containing gas supply passage and a fuel gas supply

passage, and said reactant gas discharge passage comprises an oxygen-containing gas discharge passage and a fuel gas discharge passage; and

said oxygen-containing gas supply passage and said fuel gas supply passage are provided at lower positions of opposite vertical ends of said separator, and said oxygen-containing gas discharge passage and said fuel gas discharge passage are provided at upper positions of opposite vertical ends of said separator.